

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lau et al. (US 5,876,432), hereinafter Lau, while claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau.

After careful consideration, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a stent member having opposed inner and outer surfaces, such that the inner surface defines an aperture through the stent member. The claim also recites a release layer that coats the outer surface of the stent member and an insoluble fibrous component that is disposed around the outer surface of the stent member, so as to be releasably carried by the release layer, wherein the insoluble fibrous component is released from the release layer and forms a reinforcing thrombus plug upon degradation of the release layer. As such, the release layer and insoluble fibrous component are carried around the outer surface portion of the stent, which does not define the aperture through the stent.

In contrast, Lau teaches a stent in which the release layer and insoluble fibrous component are disposed within the inner aperture wall of the stent that is responsible for carrying fluid therethrough. This arrangement of Lau clearly differs from that of the Applicants' claims. Thus, because each and every limitation of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Lau, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

Furthermore with regard to claim 2, the Applicants submit that Lau does not teach or suggest the use of nanofibers as recited in the claim. In particular, the use of nanofibers results in a greater amount of thrombogenic surface area to be inserted into the aneurysm for the same amount of material provided on the stent. The use of nanofibers also allows a greater length of fiber, for a given mass of material, to reach a greater distance into the aneurysm to allow the growth of a larger clot and to prevent growth of the aneurysm. The use of nanofibers is not taught by Lau, and, therefore, the benefits of the claimed nanofiber-based stent are not achieved by Lau. Accordingly, Lau does not provide any motivation or suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize nanofibers as an insoluble fibrous component of a stent as in claim 2.

The Applicants have added new dependent claim 43 and submit that no new matter has been entered.

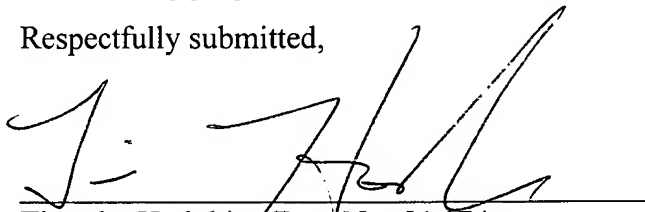
Additionally, the Applicants have amended various claims for clarity purposes only, and as such, submit that no new matter has been entered.

In view of the foregoing, it is the Applicants' position that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration by the Examiner and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance of claims 1-5, 16, and 43 is most earnestly solicited.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

In the event that the enclosed fee is not sufficient or that any other fees are due with respect to the filing of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987. If a withdrawal is required from Deposit Account No. 18-0987, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks cite Attorney Docket No. UOA.625.US for billing purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Hodgkiss', written over a horizontal line.

Timothy Hodgkiss, Reg. No. 54,174
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
First National Tower, Suite 400
106 S. Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308-1412
Telephone: (330) 376-1242

Attorney for the Applicants

October 3, 2011